

Claims

I claim:

1. A method for making a customized composition for application to a surface wherein said method comprises selecting a material; selecting a temporary visual indicator; and mixing the indicator with the material to form the customized composition.

2. The method, according to claim 1, further comprising the step of mixing a modifying substance with the material, wherein the modifying substance enables the indicator to be visible for a desired period of time after application, and then disappears.

3. The method according to claim 2, wherein the indicator is a compound that is selected from the group consisting of phenolphthalein; bromthymol blue; thymol blue; phenol red; cresol red; *m*-cresol purple; methyl violet; methyl orange; bromocresol green; methyl red; thymolphthalein; and alizarin yellow.

4. The method according to claim 2, wherein the indicator is a compound that is visible at a first pH and invisible at a second pH.

5. The method according to claim 4, wherein the material is selected from the group consisting of herbicides, pesticides, fertilizers, protectants, sealants, cleansers, polishes, varnishes, lacquers, and topical materials.

6. The method according to 4, wherein the indicator is selected from the group consisting of 3,3-bis[4-hydroxyphenyl]-1-[3H]-isobenzofuranone and thymolphthalein.

7. The method according to claim 2, wherein the modifying substance is a volatile base or acid.

8. The method according to claim 7, wherein the modifying substance is selected from the group consisting of a monoamine, a diamine, a cyclic amine, hydrochloric acid, thionyl chloride, acetic, malic and tartaric, isobutyric, butyric, isovaleric, valeric, hexanoic, 3-methylvaleric, heptanoic, and nonanoic acids.

9. The method according to claim 1, wherein the indicator is a compound that is visible at a first temperature and invisible at a second temperature.

10. The method according to claim 1, wherein the indicator is selected from the group consisting of basonyl green; basonyl blue; diarylmethane; FD&C #2 indigotene; FD&C #2 lake; triarylmethane (pyram blue); FD&C #1 triphenylmethane; FD&C #1 lake; FD&C #5 yellow; pyrazoine; FD&C #3 green; triphenylmethane; FD&C #3 red; erythrosine powder; and FD&C #5 yellow lake.

11. The method according to claim 1, wherein the indicator is a compound that is visible at a first moisture level and invisible at a second moisture level.

12. The method according to claim 1, wherein the indicator is a compound that is visible prior to exposure to light and invisible after exposure to light.

13. The method according to claim 1, wherein the indicator is a compound that is visible prior to reaction with an oxidizing agent and invisible after reaction with an oxidizing agent.

14. The method according to claim 1, wherein the indicator is a compound that is visible prior to reaction with a reducing agent and invisible after reaction with a reducing agent.

15. The method according to claim 1, wherein the material is non-paint material.

16. A composition comprising:

(a) a non-paint material selected for application to a surface; and

(b) a temporary visual indicator that is initially visible and capable of becoming substantially invisible after application of the composition to a surface, wherein the temporary visual indicator is a light unstable dye.

17. The composition according to claim 16, wherein the material is selected from the group consisting of herbicides, pesticides, fertilizers, cleansers, and topical materials;

18. The composition according to claim 16, wherein the temporary visual indicator is selected from the group consisting of basonyl green; basonyl blue; diarylmethane; FD&C #2 indigotene; FD&C #2 lake; triarylmethane (pylam blue); FD&C #1 triphenylmethane; FD&C #1 lake; FD&C #5 yellow; pyrazoine; FD&C #3 green; tripheynylmethane; FD&C #3 red; erthyrosine powder; and FD&C #5 yellow lake.

19. A kit for making a customized composition for application to a surface, wherein said kit comprises at least one compartment that includes a temporary visual indicator, wherein the temporary visual indicator is initially visible and capable of becoming substantially invisible; and instructions for making the customized composition.

20. The kit according to claim 19, wherein said temporary visual indicator is a light unstable dye.

21. The kit according to claim 19, wherein the temporary visual indicator is selected from the group consisting of basonyl green; basonyl blue; diarylmethane; FD&C #2 indigotene; FD&C #2 lake; triarylmethane (pylam blue); FD&C #1 triphenylmethane; FD&C #1 lake; FD&C #5 yellow; pyrazoine; FD&C #3 green; tripheynylmethane; FD&C #3 red; erthyrosine powder; and FD&C #5 yellow lake.

22. The kit according to claim 19, further comprising a second compartment that includes a modifying substance, wherein the modifying substance enables the indicator to be visible for a period of time, wherein the period of time the indicator is visible is dependent on the modifying substance mixed with the material; and instructions for mixing the modifying substance.

23. The kit according to claim 22, wherein the indicator is selected from the group consisting of phenolphthalein; bromthymol blue; thymol blue; phenol red; cresol red; *m*-cresol purple; methyl violet; methyl orange; bromocresol green; methyl red; thymolphthalein; and alizarin yellow.

24. The kit according to claim 22, wherein the indicator is a compound that is visible at a first pH and invisible at a second pH.

25. The kit according to claim 24, wherein the indicator is selected from the group consisting of 3,3-bis[4-hydroxyphenyl]-1-[3H]-isobenzofuranone and thymolphthalein.

26. The kit according to claim 22, wherein the modifying substance is a volatile base or acid.

27. The kit according to claim 26, wherein the modifying substance is selected from the group consisting of a monoamine, a diamine, a cyclic amine, hydrochloric acid, thionyl chloride, acetic, malic and tartaric, isobutyric, butyric, isovaleric, valeric, hexanoic, 3-methylvaleric, heptanoic, and nonanoic acids.